

Scope of Materials and Activities Included in the Definition of MSW and MSW Recycling

This table includes general descriptions of materials and activities considered MSW and MSW recycling and should be used only as a guide when trying to categorize materials and recycling activities. This table is formatted after a combination of tables found in the EPA guide and contains information as it relates to SC laws governing solid waste.

Recyclable Material	What is MSW	What Is NOT MSW (1)	What Counts as Recycling	What does NOT Count as Recycling
Food Scraps	Uneaten food and food preparation wastes from residences and commercial establishments (restaurants, supermarkets and produce stands), institutional sources (school cafeterias), and industrial sources (employee lunchrooms).	Food processing waste from agricultural and industrial operations.	Commercial composting of food scraps from grocery stores, restaurants, cafeterias, lunchrooms and private residences.	Backyard (onsite) composting of food scraps, and the use of food items for human consumption (food banks). However these efforts do impact the waste disposal (reduction) goal.
Glass	Containers, packaging and glass found in appliances, furniture and consumer electronics.	Glass from transportation equipment (automobiles) and construction and demolition (C&D) debris (such as windows).	Recycling of container and packaging glass (beverage and food containers) and recycling of glass found in furniture, appliances and consumer electronics into new glass products such as containers, packaging, construction materials (aggregate) or fiberglass (insulation).	Recycling of glass found in transportation equipment and C&D debris, recycling of pre-consumer glass or glass from industrial processes and reuse of refillable glass bottles.
Lead-Acid Batteries	Batteries from automobiles, trucks and motorcycles.	Batteries from aircraft, military vehicles, boats, heavy-duty trucks and tractors.	Recycling of lead-acid batteries found in cars, trucks or motorcycles and made into new plastic and lead products.	Recycling of lead-acid batteries used in large equipment, aircraft, military vehicles, boats, heavy-duty trucks and tractors and industrial applications.
Metal	Aluminum and steel cans; nonferrous metals from appliances, furniture and consumer electronics; and other aluminum items (foil and lids from bi-metal cans).	Nonferrous metals from industrial applications and C&D debris (aluminum siding, wiring and piping).	Recycling of aluminum and steel cans and recycling of metals found in appliances and packaging made into new metal products.	Reuse of metal containers, packaging, furniture or consumer electronics and recycling of metals found in transportation equipment (automobile bodies) and C&D debris.
Paper	Cardboard, magazines, newspapers, office paper, phone books and other paper products including books, third-class mail, commercial printing, paper towels and paper plates and cups.	Paper manufacturing wastes (mill broke) and converting scrap not recovered for recycling.	Recycling of paper products (such as newspapers and office paper) into new paper products (tissue, paperboard, hydro mulch, animal bedding or insulation materials).	Reuse of paper products, recycling of pre-consumer or manufacturing waste (waste, mill broke, print overruns and over issue publications) and combustion of paper for energy recovery.
Plastic	Containers, packaging, bags and wraps and plastics found in appliances, furniture and sporting and recreational equipment.	Plastics from transportation equipment.	Recycling of plastic products (containers, bags and wraps), and recycling of plastic from furniture and consumer electronics into new plastic products (fiber fill and plastic lumber).	Reuse of plastic products (storage containers and sporting equipment), recycling of pre-consumer plastic waste or industrial process waste and combustion of plastics for energy recovery.
Textiles (2)	Fiber from apparel, furniture, linens (sheets and towels), carpets, rugs and footwear.	Textile waste generated during manufacturing processes (mill scrap) and C&D projects.	Recycling of textiles into wiper rags and recycling of apparel and carpet fibers into new products such as linen paper or carpet padding.	Reuse of apparel.

Recyclable Material	What is MSW	What Is NOT MSW (1)	What Counts as Recycling	What does NOT Count as Recycling
Tires	Tires from motorcycles, automobiles and trucks.	Tires from buses, heavy farm and construction equipment.	Recycling automobile and truck tires into new products containing rubber (trash cans, storage containers, and rubberized asphalt), use of whole tires for playground and reef construction and combustion of tire chips for fuel.	Recycling of tires from buses, heavy farm and construction equipment and re-treading tires.
Wood	Pallets, crates, barrels and wood found in furniture and consumer electronics.	Wood from C&D debris (lumber and tree stumps) and industrial process waste (shavings and sawdust).	Recycling of wood products (pallets and crates) into mulch, compost or similar uses.	Repair and reuse of pallets, combustion of wood for energy recovery, recycling of industrial process waste (wood shavings or sawdust) and recycling of wood from C&D debris.
Yard Trimmings (3)	Grass, leaves, brush, branches and tree stumps.	Yard trimmings and land-clearing debris from C&D operations.	Offsite recycling of grass, leaves, woody material such as brush, branches, whole trees and Christmas trees, tree stumps into mulch, or similar uses and combustion of yard trimmings for energy recovery.	Mulching of tree stumps from C&D debris, backyard (onsite) composting, grasscycling and land spreading of leaves.
Other (4)	Household hazardous materials (HHM), used oil, oil/gas mixture, oil filters, fluorescent tubes and consumer electronics.	Abatement debris, agricultural waste, combustion ash, C&D debris, industrial process waste, medical waste, mining waste, municipal sewage and industrial sludge, natural disaster debris and pre-consumer waste.	Household hazardous materials (HHM), used oil, oil/gas mixture, oil filters, fluorescent tubes, cooking oil and consumer electronics.	Recycling of C&D debris (asphalt, concrete, and natural disaster debris), transportation equipment (automobile bodies), municipal sewage sludge and agricultural, industrial, mining and food processing waste.

(1) The wastes listed in this column are not considered MSW due to one or more of the following reasons: [1] they are not defined as MSW in EPA's *Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste in the United States*, [2] they have not been historically handled and disposed of as MSW, [3] they are regulated as hazardous waste, and/or [4] they were generated by a pre-consumer source.

(2) Carpeting is categorized as textiles when discarded as MSW and is included in calculating the MSW recycling rate. When carpets are discarded as C&D debris, they are not considered MSW and are excluded from the MSW recycling rate calculation.

(3) Tree stumps are categorized as yard trimmings when discarded in MSW and are included in the MSW recycling rate. When tree stumps are discarded in C&D debris, they are not considered MSW and are excluded from the MSW recycling rate calculation. The land spreading of leaves counts as recycling if the manner of the application allows timely biodegradation of the organic plant material. The land spreading of leaves does not count as recycling if the manner of the application precludes the timely biodegradation of the organic plant material.

(4) HHM includes paints, stains, varnished, solvents, pesticides, and other materials or products containing volatile chemicals that catch fire, react, explode under certain circumstances, or that are corrosive or toxic. Specific examples include oil-based paint, antifreeze, household cleansers and bug sprays. Fluorescent tubes are categorized as Other MSW when discarded in MSW and are included in the MSW recycling rate calculation. Natural disaster debris includes earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and tornadoes and is classified as C&D. However, heavy storms are not considered natural disasters.